633 Departments of the district Soviets of Working People's Deputies or directly to the corresponding Departments of the regional Soviets of Working People's Deputies.

Art. 74. The Departments of city Soviets of Working People's Deputies of Baranovichi, Bobruisk, Borisov, Brest, Vileika, Vitebsk, Gomel, Grodno, Lida, Mogilev, Mozyr, Molodechno, Orsha, Pinsk, Polotsk, Rechitsa and Slutsk are subordinate in their activities both to the Soviets of Working People's Deputies of these towns and their executive committees as well as to the corresponding department of the regional Soviet of Working People's Deputies directly.

Art. 74a. The Departments of the city Soviet of Working People's Deputies of Minsk are subordinate in their activities both to the City Soviet of Workers' Deputies of Minsk and its Executive Committee as well as to the corresponding Ministry of the Belorussian SSR directly.

631 Art. 75. On the expiration of the terms of office of the regional, district, city, settlement or village Soviets of Working People's Deputies, their executive and administrative organs retain their powers until the newly elected Soviets shall have formed new executive and administrative organs.

Chapter VI. The Budget of the Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic

650 646 Art. 76. The state budget of the Belorussian SSR is drawn up by the Council of Ministers of the Belorussian SSR and submitted by it to the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR for its approval.

[645] Upon its approval by the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR the state budget of the Belorussian SSR is published for general information.

Art. 77. The Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR elects a Budget Commission, which reports its conclusions on the state budget of the Belorussian SSR to the Supreme Soviet.

Art. 78. The report on the fulfilment of the state budget of the Belorussian SSR is approved by the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR and published for general information.

652 631 Art. 79. The budgets of the regional, district, city, settlement and village Soviets include the revenues from the local economy, deductions from the state revenues collected within their territory and likewise receipts from local taxes and imposts in amounts fixed by the laws of the USSR and the Belorussian SSR.

Chapter VII. The Courts and the Procurator's Office

● 692 Art. 80. In the Belorussian SSR justice is administered by the Supreme Court of the Belorussian SSR, the Regional Courts, the Special Courts of the USSR established by decision of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, and the People's Courts.

[693] Art. 81. In all Courts cases are tried with the participation of people's assessors, except in cases specially provided for by law.

Art. 82. The Supreme Court of the Belorussian SSR is the highest judicial organ of the Belorussian SSR. The Supreme Court of the Belorussian SSR is charged with the supervision of the judicial activities of all the judicial organs of the Belorussian SSR.

[Constitution as of July, 1947]

692 Art. 83. The Supreme Court of the Belorussian SSR is elected by the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR for a term of five years.

Art. 84. Regional courts are elected by regional Soviets of Working People's Deputies for a term of five years.

Art. 85. People's courts are elected by the citizens of the district on the basis of universal, direct and equal suffrage by secret ballot for a term of three years.

695 [563] Art. 86. Judicial proceedings in the Belorussian SSR are conducted in the Belorussian language, persons not knowing the language being guaranteed every opportunity of fully acquainting themselves with the material of the case through an interpreter and likewise the right to use their own language in court.

Art. 87. In all courts of the Belorussian SSR cases are heard in public, unless otherwise provided for by law, and the accused is guaranteed the right to be defended by counsel.

693 Art. 88. Judges are independent and subject only to the law.

Art. 89. Supreme supervisory power to ensure the strict observance of the law by all Ministries and institutions subordinated to them, as well as by officials and citizens within the territory of the Belorussian SSR generally, is exercised by the Procurator-General of the USSR directly and also through the Procurator of the Belorussian SSR.

Art. 90. The Procurator of the Belorussian SSR and the regional procurators are appointed by the Procurator-General of the USSR for a term of five years.

Art. 91. District and city procurators are appointed by the Procurator of the Belorussian SSR, subject to the approval of the Procurator-General of the USSR, for a term of five years.

Art. 92. The organs of the Procurator's Office perform their functions independently of any local organs whatsoever, being subordinate solely to the Procurator-General of the USSR.

Chapter VIII. Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens

461 641 Art. 93. Citizens of the Belorussian SSR have the right to work, that is, are guaranteed the right to employment and payment for their work in accordance with its quantity and quality.

The right to work is ensured by the socialist organization of the national economy, the steady growth of the productive forces of Soviet society, the elimination of the possibility of economic crises, and the abolition of unemployment.

Art. 94. Citizens of the Belorussian SSR have the right to rest and leisure.

The right to rest and leisure is ensured by the establishment of an eight-hour working day for factory and office workers, the reduction of the working day to seven or six hours for arduous trades and to four hours in shops where working conditions are particularly arduous, by the institution of annual vacations with full pay for factory and office workers and the provision of a wide network of sanatoria, rest-homes and clubs for the accommodation of the working people.

depended on the capable efforts of the new Belorussian workers who were sent into what had been Gomel' Guberniya. They were able to cope with the task.

Minority Problems

The equality on the Belorussian territory of the four official languages, Belorussian, Russian, Polish, and Jewish, was recognized by a govermental decree. In practice only Belorussian was at all widely used, and Russian was employed in dealing with institutions of the U. S. S. R. Jewish and Polish were spoken in the national schools, kindergartens, theaters, libraries, and so on. The severity with which equality of the four languages was enforced sometimes became absurd. In the town of Rechitsa in 1928, at a municipal teachers conference, one participant who was the principal of a Jewish school made her observations in a speech in Jewish. Of course an interpreter had to be used. A Belorussian schoolteacher, Mokhnach, who had been renowned in the past for his liberal convictions and activities, but who unfortunately was versed in the unexpected twists and turns of Soviet policy, proposed quite correctly that all speakers use "Russian, as it is the most widely understood." For this proposal, which would appear to have been quite innocent, Mokhnach was accused of Great Russian chauvinism, immediately fired from his job, excluded from the trade union, and also deprived of a pension after his forty-five years of service in the school system. This shows just how unsuccessfully the Soviets could choose a subject upon whom to demonstrate how severely and unrelentingly anyone would be punished who transgressed against the Stalinist policy towards the minorities.

Special court chambers where litigation was conducted in Jewish were opened in the large cities to serve the Jewish population. In small towns and in some larger ones where Jews lived in compact groups, local and village soviets were formed -- providing service for the population in its native language. /14/

The national work concerning the so-called Polish population of Belorussia was a rather special case. In Minsk and in other cities there were several responsible workers /in the nationalist movement/ who were Poles by nationality. They were almost all Communists and native-born Poles, for the most part deriving from the Polish Socialist Party (P. P. S.). Moreover, twenty-five percent of the native